



United States Department of State

Washington, D.C. 20520

October 7, 2019

Mr. Robert Luskin
Paul Hastings LLP
875 15th Street NW
Washington DC 20005

Dear Mr. Luskin:

Based on consultations with the White House, the State Department hereby instructs your client, Ambassador Gordon Sondland, not to appear tomorrow for his voluntary deposition based on the Executive Branch confidentiality interests remaining to be addressed, including, in particular, the Committee's refusal to permit agency counsel to appear.

On October 1, the Secretary of State transmitted a letter to the Committees communicating a number of significant legal and procedural concerns with their requests for voluntary depositions. This afternoon, Department representatives engaged in discussions with the Committees in an attempt to achieve an agreement that would reasonably accommodate legitimate and long-standing Executive Branch interests in the context of the Ambassador's testimony, in particular the need for agency counsel to be present. Unfortunately, the Committees declined to agree to the Department's proposals.

As Secretary Pompeo has repeatedly stated, the Department is committed to compliance with the law and the U.S. Constitution in order to ensure that the Executive Branch's legitimate interests are also protected.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Bulatao".

Brian Bulatao
Undersecretary of State